GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5851
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2000
FAILURE OF CROPS
AVTAR SINGH BHADANA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated percentage of annual loss of agricultural produce during the last three years due to soil erosion, State-wise;

(b) the remedial measures taken by Government so far to save the loss of crop due to soil erosion particularly in the rainfed areas and to the extent to which these measures have been able to save the agriculture produce;

(c) the deficiencies in the existing method of soil conservation; and

(d) the alternative methods are proposed to be adopted by Government for enhancing the yields in the rainfed areas of the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)

(a): No scientific survey has been undertaken to estimate percentage of annual loss of agricultural produce due to soil erosion.

(b): Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing various schemes namely:

(i) National Watershed Development Project in Rainfed Areas;

(ii) Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers;

(iii) Watershed Development project in Shifting Cultivation Areas to minimise Soil erosion in the Rainfed Areas.

The measures adopted include contour bunding, vegetative Hedges, Agro Forestry, Horticulture Development, Afforestation, Pasture Development, Drainage Line Treatment, Water Harvestingstructure, Percolation tanks etc. which have been found to be very effective in controlling soil erosion and recharging ground water and increasing crop productivity. Impact evaluation have indicated
(i) rise in groundwater recharge and
(ii) reduction in sediment yield.

(c) & (d): During 9th Plan, the thrust have been on sustainable development of agriculture through community participation in watershed management. Studies have indicated that watershed based programmes have led to increased cropping intensity as well as enhanced yields.